

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL
CENTER FOR LOWELL HISTORY
ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION**

**SHIFTING GEARS PROJECT
NORTH ADAMS**

**INFORMANT: CORINNE SEARS
INTERVIEWER: KIMBERLY FOSTER
DATE: MAY 28, 1988**

**K = KIMBERLY
C = CORINNE**

SG-NA-T041

Interview begins with interviewer in mid-sentence:

K: . . .forty-six years. She worked in production for [C: for the forty-six years], for all forty-six years.

C: But there's been changes. As we'll go along we'll find out what they were. [C: Okay] Okay?

K: Okay. This is May 23rd, 1988. Okay. Could you tell us where your grandparents came from?

C: Well they came basically from Canada. [K: Okay] And they came here, I can't remember the date that they came here, but you know, it was when, before I was born. [K: Okay] So, but basically I am of French decent.

K: Okay. They came directly here to North Adams?

C: As far as I can remember. Now that probably is debatable. I don't know, okay?

K: Okay. And do you know what they did for a living?

C: Well my, both grandmothers were just plain housewives, homemakers. And my grandfather on my mother's side was a mill worker, which was for this part of the country, this was it. And my grandfather was a fireman in Adams.

K: Oh. Did your grandmother work in the textile mills, or the shoe mills do you know?

C: No. My grandmothers never worked, either one of them.

K: Okay. Your grandfather then worked?

C: My grandfathers, my one grandfather, my mother's father on the Lord side worked in the mills. And on the [Vanier?] side he was a fireman in Adams. [K: Okay] Okay?

K: And your parents? Did they both come from North Adams?

C: Um, basically yes. Yes. Well no. My father came from Adams, my mother came from North Adams, I mean in the neighborhood.

K: Okay. Okay. What did your parents do as you were growing up, for work?

C: Well they uh, separated early. So I don't have very much childhood memories. [K: Okay] My mother was a mill worker also.

K: Okay. Where did she work? Do you remember.

C: Hoosic Cotton Mill.

K: Okay.

C: And my grand (--) My father, well for what I know of him it's nothing to talk about.

K: Okay.

C: Okay?

K: Fine. Okay. So you grew up here in North Adams then? [C: Definitely] Okay. And when were you born?

C: I was born August the 4th, 1925.

K: And you went to school here?

C: Notre Dame School right here in North Adams. [K: Umhm, okay] And Drury High School.

K: Drury High School?

C: Umhm.

K: So did you attend a local church?

C: Notre Dame Church.

K: Okay.

C: As a child.

K: Right, okay. Um, so you married when?

C: This is my second marriage. [C: Okay] I was married thirty years August the 3rd. Well I was married first, August the 3rd, 1957. And then we celebrated our thirtieth anniversary.

K: Okay. What was your husband's name?

C: My husband's name is Thomas Sears.

K: Okay. And you had children?

C: Yes I did, two.

K: Two children.

C: Boy and a girl.

K: Right. Um, let's see. What was your first job?

C: My first job and only job was Sprague Electric.

K: Sprague Electric, okay. Um, why did you start to work at Sprague Electric? When did you start to work.

C: I started to work at the tender age of sixteen. [K: Wow] Why? Because we needed money. [K: Umhm] Times were very difficult at that time. And I was, I considered myself very fortunate to get the job. I lied my age of course, but I mean I got in anyways. And I started in May 13, 1941.

K: Were you able to finish school?

C: I went nights and got my high school diploma.

K: Really. That's great.

C: It took me two years, but I did it.

K: That's good. What was your first job there at Sprague?

C: My first job and primary job at Sprague's was a condensor roller. Capacitor roller they call it now, [K: okay] which they still are rolling to this day in an all together different methods, you know. They have changed through the years. And I don't think you would understand if I went

through them.

K: Could you give a brief, you know, generally what you did?

C: Well, well yes. As I say, primarily it was rolling. But when you started out you started out with an automatic roller. And you just pushed a pedal and you lined up paper and foil on spindles and brought them through. And rolled so many turns. That was the technology term there. And you would come up with a finished capacitor. And they in turn would do what they did with it afterwards, you know. But basically for the, well no, I got to say for the last fifteen years I was a clerical worker [K: okay] there in Sprague's. But for the most of it, except during the war when we did the jobs that we were needed it, you know.

K: Okay. We'll get into that. Um, did you have any other family members working at Sprague's at the time?

C: I, my sister worked there very briefly, [K: umhm] but then she went to Wallstreet, Streeter there. [K: Right] Okay?

K: Okay. Um, what was your starting pay when you started? Do you have any (--)

C: Yes. Thirty-nine cents an hour.

K: Okay. Was that good for you as, at fifteen?

C: That was, that was top money. [K: Umhm] That was, that beat it all.

K: Yeah.

C: I was on cloud nine. [Both laugh]

K: Uh, did you find it difficult learning the job? Was it (--)

C: No, no. It was very, it came to me very readily. And it is, I must say to this day, it was a job that I thoroughly enjoyed doing. I just got off of bonus in the later years, because I was tired of the pushing. But as far as the job itself was concerned I thoroughly enjoyed rolling for all the years that I've done it.

K: Um, how many hours did you work when you started there?

C: Forty hours a week.

K: Forty hours a week?

C: Right. That was basic. [K: Umhm] Well I'm not going to get ahead of myself. I'm going to let you answer the questions, because it did get to be more, but that was during the war years. And I'm sure you're going to ask questions on that.

K: Okay. Um, lunch breaks?

C: We had a half an hour.

K: Umhm. And did you get to talk with people?

C: Oh sure! There was, they played music then at intervals. And there was a good feeling of people in Sprague's. They, that was like a family. It was, at least to me it was anyways. Let's put it that way.

K: Was there a cafeteria or something in the building?

C: There was a cafeteria, and there were a lot of activities that you could get into with the people.

K: Like what?

C: Well they had a minstrel show at that time. [K: Really?] And it was something you looked forward too. And they did have dances periodically. And that was something you looked forward too.

K: Was this at night, or the day?

C: They would have them down the Armory and that was one of the big occasions. And they would have the Minstrels at the Elks and we would look forward to going to that. [K: Yeah] It was thoroughly enjoyable. Then the war came.

K: Okay. Um, when the war came did you find yourself in a higher bracket with any kind of different jobs?

C: I didn't find myself in a higher bracket, because I don't think anybody got any higher money then. We were all doing it for our country don't you know? And it was a love of country. [K: Umhm] The feeling there at the time uh, when you would go in there, they would pay, they would play all patriotic songs. And you had a determination, hey, this is our country. We're going to get behind it. So this is all that you met with the co-workers here.

K: Umhm. This was while you worked, or?

C: While you worked, and of course after it carried over with you because you just felt that way. [K: Right, yeah.] It was you country, you know?

K: Umhm.

C: And we didn't like being invaded by the Japs, you know, it was a thorough surprise. [K: Umhm] And a lot of, it was very, very sad in the beginning, because as I say, we were all like a

big happy family. But little by little we saw the guys go, you know. Some of them were good friends, and some of them were co workers, but still friends, you know. [K: Umhm] And little by little the cream of the crop got weaned out, and just left the girls there. And the older people started to work. They never worked, just for the country's sake. And you went on different jobs if you were asked to. Like they, I bet you don't even know this. They made bombs down on Brown Street. [K: Oh really] [Unclear] bombs, yes. And this is why I said to you I'd get back to you at another time. At that time we worked ten hours a day, six days a week.

K: Um, during the war.

C: And worked Thanksgiving, and you worked Christmas Day.

K: Oh really, wow.

C: Yes, yes. Well it was our country. [K: Sure] And that's the way we felt. And as I say, it was sad when you learned that some of them were not coming back, you know. But all and all it past, and we won. And that was the big thing, okay?

K: Did anything special happen at the end of the war?

C: At the end of the war when the guys came it was a different story. You were kind of living like what it was, but of course when they, the men started coming back they, they changed. Why wouldn't they? They had seen so much, you know? And it wasn't the same happy go lucky feeling that it was at the beginning. But then they started getting married and having families, you know? All the sweethearts came back home and etc, etc,.

K: I've seen the news reels, yeah. [C: Okay?] Um, uh, what different jobs did you do during the war? Did you move to other jobs?

C: Well I went from rolling. From rolling I briefly worked in Western Electric, which was affiliated with the war too. And then I did work down at the [unclear] Department until it went out. And then during the war they needed check inspectors, because at that time mostly all the check inspectors were men. [K: Umhm] So I applied for that and I got it. That was a higher paying job. [K: Was it?] Yes, and no bonus.

K: What did that involve?

C: Oh, checking your work out, you know, to see if it was done properly, etc, etc. It's very interesting. But when the men came home then they got their jobs back, and then I went back rolling.

K: Umhm, right. Okay. Um, let's see. Um, were there any changes in benefits? What kind of benefits did you have?

C: Well yes. I can say that when we first started out we didn't have any hospitalization. We didn't have any, a lot of things. We didn't have any pension plan. I believe we had the social

security, because that started in '37. I can't remember to tell you the truth, whether they took out for income tax or not. I don't think so, but then they might have, you know? But it was such a different thing than it is now. And I can remember getting our hospitalization for a dollar. [K: Really?] Yeah, right. [Both chuckles] And it was really something, you know. They put that in to be (--)

K: When was that? Was that during the war?

C: This was, yes, during the war it was put into effect.

K: Were there any strikes at that time?

C: I believe there was a strike there in forty. But I don't, I was not a part of it. And um, wait a minute. Now there probably was one earlier, but I am not a strike person. I never was and I never will be. And then the strikes that came after that, I was never in agreeing with it, but we went along with the majority, you know?

K: So you stayed out of work, but you didn't (--)

C: Oh I did stay out of work definitely. I would never cross the picket line. There was no way I would do that. [K: Yeah] But I never seen in my lifetime anyone who gained from a strike. If anything you lost, you know? This is one of the things you try to tell the younger ones today. Just remember one thing, we work for them. They don't work for you. And they don't realize the benefits that they walked into. Now I'm going to be sounding like an old foggy, but you know when I first started in Sprague it took you three years to get one weeks vacation.

K: Wow, three years for one week.

C: And it took you five years to get two weeks vacation. And fifteen years to get three. Twenty to get four. And twenty-five to get five. And today they walk in there and they're getting, they're getting more benefits than (--). Of course they're young, they don't realize, you know, what it was about. But that's progress. It goes on. Okay? What else?

K: Okay, let's see. How did you find generally the management at Sprague?

C: I must say there are some that I, I didn't like. But on the overall pattern I have found with my association with Sprague's, if you do your job, you do it good and you're on time, you don't abuse your rest periods, there's no problem getting along with anyone. I have never had it. And if I did have a grievance I have never found where I couldn't go to my group leader. And if I couldn't get satisfaction with my group leader, then I would go to my foreman. But on an overall pattern through the years I have found that if you go the right way, and you are legitimate, they will, they will listen to you and they will do something for you. [K: Umhm] But it's like everything else. If you go with a chip on your shoulder, and you run to the union before you give management time to see what they can do for you, well you're, you're just doing it wrong. That's all.

K: So the general procedure, was that procedure always in place? to go to the group leader and then the foreman?

C: As far as, as far as I've been in Sprague's it always was. But the young people today, they just run to the union. They don't, they don't sit and talk if they have a problem. And I have found through the years, no matter what your problem is, if you sit and you talk about it intelligently, and if you're of any caliber at all, you're going to get some satisfaction. [K: Umhm] This is the way I feel. So for what it's worth, that's it!

K: Okay. What kind of grievances usually came up with you, or with other people?

C: Well it would be seniority, distribution of work, etc. You know, abuse of time, you know. They take too many breaks. [K: Umhm] You know, too many cigarette breaks. Too much not coming back to their station when the buzzer rings. Getting dressed with their hats and coats before the buzzer rings. [K: Umhm] Which is uh, hey, it's company policy. [K: Sure] What are you going to do? Like I say, you work for them, they don't work for you. Okay?

K: What kind of breaks did you generally get during the day?

C: Well you would get your morning break. You would get a fifteen minute breakfast break. And then you would get another five minute break. And then you would get your lunch. And in the afternoon you would get another fifteen minute break, which is sufficient. And you were allowed clean up time, and, which they never did. Well I can't say they never did, that would be unfair to the ones who did. But I mean, it got to the point where they just hurried up and put their coats on. And they new they weren't suppose to. And when they did, well they weren't happy because they got chastised for it. Okay?

K: Okay. Were you able to make a lot of friends on the job?

C: Oh I have friends to this day that I cherish way back if we're still living. [Both laugh] And this is true, you know? I have a friend that I met there during the war, and we have corresponded since the war was over. And we do, just once every Christmas, but you can be sure that there's a little note in the Christmas card there. I have made very good friends. Yes I have. They're a nice bunch of people.

K: Were you able to talk while you were working usually, or just a lunch break?

C: Well that's why I talk so loud, because [both laugh] you can always tell a production worker [unclear] they talk so loud. And then you go, when I went from production to clerical and you know, you had to talk a little bit on the lower side, I find myself, wow! Be quiet. Okay. Yes we did talk and we had good times. We were able to sing. They never, they never stopped us from that. We'd sing round robbin songs and things like that. It was, it was good relationship.

K: Okay. Um, now you had two children. [C: Umhm] Um, how did you manage to work and to see to your children at the same time.

C: It wasn't easy. It was, it was very difficult. I was very fortunate in the fact that I had lots of cousins who were younger. [K: Umhm] And I come from, although my family, my immediate family wasn't big, I do come from a large family. And I was able to have a lot of my cousins come and sit for me. [K: Umhm] And then when the children got older, it was the Italian Sisters, the [Venereni?] Sisters that you could bring them over to, and they would watch them for you all day. Then you only had to have a sitter from seven o'clock until eight. Then you could walk over and get them, which was a very good place for children.

K: They were an org(--) Set up for Sprague workers, or just somebody that you knew?

C: They were set up for any worker's children. They were just lovely, lovely women, dedicated women. And they, they took very good care of the children.

K: Okay. Their names again were?

C: They were the Venereni Sisters. And they had a place on uh, I think it was Marshall and Holden I think it was. They had their convent there. And they had a guard and they took very good care of the children.

K: Umhm. How many children were there? Do you know?

C: Oh my god, as many as they could possibly handle. Now there was, well I really couldn't even come up with a guess, but there were quite a few, because there was, there were, the sister were all there, you know. And they did have like a classroom structure, you know, and a supervised playground. And it was reasonable.

K: Okay. Um, how did management react if you had to take a day, did you have to take days off now and then, or time off to go see your children?

C: If you didn't abuse the privilege they were very understanding. [K: Umhm] But if you did it too much, like everything else. And it wasn't so much management as it would be the union, because you couldn't hold on your seniority if you (--) Like at one time they let me go in at eight o'clock. But then the union complained, because I was working seven hours a day instead of eight hours, which was, made it easier for me. But my boss came over and he says Corinne, I can't let you do it anymore. The union is on my tail. I said, oh, okay. If you can't do it, you can't do it, you know? But that was the people, that wasn't management, you know.

K: Umhm, okay. Did um, did Sprague have anything itself to take care of children?

C: No they didn't. It wasn't that popular at that time don't you know. Most of the women stayed home, or they worked the second shift, the five to eleven shift.

K: Okay.

C: You know, which you did to not pay a babysitter, you know?

K: Sure.

C: I'll tell you the years go by and it's a memory. [Both chuckle-then long pause]

K: After the war what kind of changes did you see in your job as oppose to before the war?

C: Well progress of course. Then they turned from doing military work into going into regular production work. [K: Umhm] They concentrated on building different things you know? And it, it was a gradual change. And of course it, there were improvements and everything, like everything else, changed. And there's still change. It's going on today. We went down from Marshall Street, down to Curran Highway. That was a big change.

K: Oh, you worked at the one n Curran Highway?

C: Yes, briefly I did. And uh, that was a big change. But it's like everything else. When you've seen it. Now I've worked in just about all the plants that Sprague's had. [K: Umhm] And uh, Marshall Street was my, the one I liked the best of course.

K: Umhm, why was that?

C: I don't know. I can't tell you. Maybe because I liked the three quarters of an hour lunch, and walking around upstreet on Main Street. And it was easy to get to, and I suppose that was basically it. The people were the same of course no matter where you were. It's just that it, it got dear to me.

K: Did you start there?

C: No. I started on Beaver Street. [K: Okay] They didn't even have Marshall Street then.

K: That's right. [Both laugh] You were the only one there.

C: No, no, no no. No, no. No no, there were others believe me. But there was just Beaver Street and they acquired Brown Street then.

K: Did you ever work at Brown Street?

C: Yes I did. Yes I did. Rolling of course. All, mostly all, there was rolling in every place you know, just about.

K: Okay. Um, what did you find the hardest part about your work at Sprague?

C: The hardest part? I can't really tell you what the hardest part was. As I say, I loved rolling so much. I didn't find that hard at all to do. And that's what I did primarily. I can't think of anything that I found extremely hard, [K: okay] you know? No, I can't do it. No, no.

K: What was your husband doing while you were working at Sprague? What was he working

somewhere else?

C: Oh, he's a Hunter man.

K: Uh huh. Oh, okay. [Both laugh] [Unclear]

C: Yeah, he's a Hunter man. He was not Sprague affiliated at all.

K: Right.

C: His years were there in Hunter's. We all worked. We're working people, that's all.

K: Sure. [Both laugh]

C: And we, we liked it. We're glad we're retired.

K: I'm sure after forty-six years.

C: Right.

K: Um, did he help out much with uh, raising the kids?

C: Oh he's always been a great help. Everything you see here he's built it. [K: Really, wow!] Everything you see. This was an old home and it's paid for. It's ours and we enjoy it. We're enjoying the fruits of our labor. So he did his part and I did my part and the years went on. [Laughs]

K: Sure. Now you managed to put your son obviously through college.

C: Certainly. Yeah, yeah. We would have put, we would have put our daughter through had she wanted to go, but the love bug got her.

K: Oh no!

C: Oh yes! [Both laugh] Not much you can do with that situation. Better she'd have went to college.

K: Umhm.

C: Oh well we laugh.

K: That's good then, good that you were able to put your children at least through school. At least have the capacity to do it.

C: Oh they definitely would have the opportunities that, at my time of life, high school was a luxury. You know that. [K: Yeah] You had to come from a pretty stable family, and a pretty

you know, because usually, like I did, you had to go to work.

K: Right, yeah.

C: There was not question about it, money wasn't easy.

K: Umhm. So a lot of your friends were going into work instead of school?

C: Oh sure. I was, I'm not unique you know. There was, we were all on the same boat. I think that's why there was so much good feelings, and our generation has more, we appreciate more what we've got I think, because we worked for it. [K: Umhm] You know? [K: True] And it didn't take much to please us. Let us see a dance. Go to a dance. And let us go to a Minstrel Show, or go to a movie. And we didn't have no cars you know. We were just as thrilled with what we had.

K: Did Sprague help at all with education, or (--)

C: Oh Sprague's has been a (--) I just get, I just get so mad when people put Sprague's down, because Sprague's, if you worked there and you did your work Sprague's was good. Through, by working in Sprague's and taking out the loans that I took out at the various times, I was able to buy cars, put Steve through College, fix this house, do everything. And I couldn't have done it if I didn't have the flexibility of being able to borrow the money from Sprague's. That's what I say. They afford, they afford such good things for people, and people just take them so much for granted, you know?

K: Umhm. [Pause] Now did a lot of people leave, a lot of women especially, go into Sprague during the war and then leave?

C: Well they left to bring up their families. And then a lot of them came back later on. There was a lot of them that have, would have have more time than I did, but they took time to stay home and bring up their family, which wasn't something I wasn't afford to do.

K: Umh. So you stayed basically just because you, [C: I needed the money] You needed the money, yeah. [C: Simple] Umhm. Did you feel pressure to you know, to stay at home?

C: Well I did and I didn't, let's put it that way. I look at the children today and I don't feel as though they were deprived of much from my working. And uh, I would have liked to have stayed home with them, but it just wasn't there. So I worked. What else when you need money. In my time you didn't go on welfare! For crying out loud! [Both laugh] Oh dear.

K: What did you like most about working at Sprague?

C: People. The fun times that we've had. The caring. As I say, I've made good friends. They're still friends today. Friends I've had when I was a young girls. We sit and we laugh and chat over what was. You know we can talk about before the war, during the war, having our children, seeing them grow. I have one friend that our sons went to school all through school together.

And they're both teaching at Drury. We worked together all those years. That was what I liked. I never disliked working at Sprague. I was always quite content. I'm odd I guess. [Both laugh]

K: That's odd. If you had to do it all over again would you make any changes?

C: Not work wise. No. No.

K: Okay, let's pause for just a minute.

C: Sure.

K: Um, were you involved at all in the strike of 1970?

C: No, because I had just had major surgery and I was recovering from it. So I was, wasn't involved in it anyway. But when I got back to work I was one of the first ones that was called back. My leave was up and I was called back. And it saddened me to see so many people, good employees that were let, weren't called back and lost their seniority, and had to start over again. Which to me they gained absolutely nothing.

K: That was because of this strike? Because they had (--)

C: Well the jobs, I can't, I don't know, I don't know if it was because of the strike basically, but the jobs, they just didn't call them back. And they lost their jobs, where, and they didn't gain that much. [K: Umhm] As I say, I was not involved, I was out on surgery. I was out on a medical leave. But it, you could talk to a lot of people who were involved, and who did lose their seniority. And I think you would find they feel a little hurt as anyone would. [K: True] You know? But then again that's life.

K: So they went back to work at a later time?

C: They went back to work but they had lost their seniority. They had to start over day one, which is a pretty good slap in the face. You know, some of them lost out on vacation time, etc. But that was the way it was.

K: Did you see any benefits, pay raises, or (--)

C: Oh, you got a pay raise, sure. But you, I feel you would have got something without it. I don't uh, I am not a striking person. So I will never, never agree to a strike. [K: Umhm] Whatever you gain, you've lost somewhere along the line, by the time you make up for what pay you lost, and etc., and all the rest of the stuff. What did you gain? Yeah, nothing. Oh a few pennies more in here or there.

K: How would you have gone about you know, making any changes? Did you see a need for changes to be made for raises, or working conditions?

C: Well people always want more money. I don't know of anybody who don't want anymore

money. I'm as greedy as the next guy. I like to get a pay raise. I like money. But I think sometimes you just um, I don't think a strike is the answer to it. It's like I told you earlier in the tape, you sit down and talk, you know?

K: Do you think that Sprague was open enough to talk with you?

C: Well I like to think so, but that's my opinion. And I'm sure you're going to get a lot of people who don't agree with me, but then again that's my opinion and I'm entitled to it.

K: Sure. Okay. Um, you worked in the office for the last (--)

C: No, no. I was a produc(--) I was a clerical worker. [K: Okay] Now I've always been a production worker, but the last fifteen years I signed as a department clerk and this just takes you into doing the clerical work of the department. [K: Okay] Which, I mean you do associate with the office help and things like that, but you still are considered a production employee.

K: Okay. So you did paperwork for (--)

C: Paperwork. You did uh, uh, payroll, some payroll. You did uh, filing and make out reqs and different things like that, that are job related, you know? Make out the cards, foil cards into one back with rolling that I love so much. And uh, I think that's why I loved the job so much, because I was making out the cards for that. It was a work that I truly enjoyed.

K: Was the clerical work a promotion?

C: Oh definitely. [K: Umhm] Not so much money wise. I took a cut in pay for the money, but it was, I learned skilled that I didn't have, that I feel enriched for.

K: Umhm. Were you in charge of other workers, or?

C: Oh no. [K: Just a different job.] No, it was, no I was not a group leader. I was as I say, just a department clerk. No, no, I wasn't in charge of anyone except myself. And I was in charge of making out cards and seeing that their pay was correct, or you know, their time cards were punched correctly. Things like that. Their attendance. Their efficiency, record their efficiency and all that. Make out their vacations, you know, for the group of them. That's what I was responsible for.

K: Um, now when did you retire?

C: I retired, well I have retired officially the first, February the 1st. [K: Of?] This year.

K: This year?

C: Umhm, but I was out since December, I think December 22nd, or something like that. Because I took my five weeks vacation.

K: How have you found the retirement benefits? Do you think there's, they're adequate?

C: I don't think (--) What I think about my retirement benefits has anything to do with Sprague's. [K: Umhm] So I won't go into it. You don't want to hear about social security. [K: No, that's okay] Because then I'll get on a band wagon, and you really don't want to listen to that. And I don't think anybody else does. But as far as my Sprague pension, well as I felt right from the start, and just remember you asked for this, [K: laughs] is I felt that I should have got the full pension because I had worked there all those years, and my pension was paid up, but I had to take the eighty percent like everyone else who ever retired. Then I thought perhaps they might have negotiated to get this since it was paid up all ready, but they didn't. So I am in no different boat than anyone else, which there I thought was a little unfair, but. Then too I'm just going to end it right there, because I'm not going to get on [few words unclear] that's it.

K: That was the union that didn't negotiate for the pension?

C: As I said, I'm going to end it right there.

K: It's okay if you want to talk about it. I'm sure it would be interesting.

C: It would be very interesting, but then you don't want to hear about it.

K: Okay.

C: I have to take the fifth amendment.

K: Okay. How did you see your work environment change over the years that you were there?

C: Oh well it changed a lot. Towards the end there wasn't the good feelings. When, well now see I'm probably prejudice, which I suppose I am. But when my, my group started retiring there was the loss of that good feeling that we had. [K: Umhm] And of course the young ones were coming in. Now they're making their history, just like we did ours, you know? But that feeling that was there, that just happy feeling that we had, it started going when all the older ones started retiring. I think I was about, I think I'm about the baby of the ones to retire. I don't think there's too many left now, it's all the (--) We passed the torch onto the new generation. As Kennedy would say, "The torch is past, now it's in their, up to them."

K: Now you didn't lose your job. Your job still went over there to uh?

C: Oh definitely! Yeah, right. Yeah, umhm.

K: What did you think of the shutdown of the rest of the plant? Why do you think it happened?

C: I'm not in a position to say why. I'm not that, I'm not that involved, but I think it's sad. And then too there I'm going to take the fifth amendment.

K: Okay. [Pause] How did you view would you say Sprague's impact on the whole community of North Adams in the area was, was it a positive one?

C: I'd like to think so, but there's some that would disagree with me. But I mean, as I said to you earlier through all this tape, that you just work and did your business it was okay. [K: Umhm] Didn't have not problems. I didn't anyway. And I can only speak for myself.

K: Well I think that's it for today.

C: Okay, fine.

K: Thank you very much for your interview.

C: You're welcome.